

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

CURRENT REFERENCE BOOKS.

THE GOVERNMENT YEAR BOOK. A Record of the Forms and Methods of Government in Great Britain, Her Colonies and Foreign Countries. Edited by LEWIS SERGEANT. 8vo, pp. 626. New-York: White & Allen; London: T. Fisher Unwin.

THE STATESMAN'S YEAR-BOOK. Edited by J. SCOTT KELTIE. 8vo, pp. 988. London and New-York: Macmillan & Co.

INDEX TO THE NEW-YORK DAILY TRIBUNE FOR 1887. Compiled by JOHN L. WEINHEIMER. 16mo, pp. 102. The Tribune Association, New-York.

No well-equipped library of newspaper office can afford to be without these three works of reference. "The Government Year Book" is the most comprehensive manual of political annals that has ever been published. While special prominence is given to Great Britain and its dependencies, no country is neglected. It aims to furnish a compact account of the forms and methods of government in various quarters of the world and to review the political and constitutional history of the year 1887. No other work which has ever fallen under our eyes has so complete and accurate a collection of the bases of political government and constitutional history throughout the world. The information has been supplied in the main by British Legations abroad, and it has been edited, revised and indexed by a most competent authority. The chapter relating to the United States is full and accurate, the Constitution and political system being explained to Englishmen with such intelligence and painstaking care as to convince impartial Americans that Mr. Phelps's recent essays in "The Nineteenth Century" were superfluous. Certainly, with this volume in general circulation in England, American institutions may be understood without a running commentary on the Constitution by the United States Minister. The volume is handsomely printed and well bound and will be useful every day in the year to students of the world's policies, and especially to journalists.

"The Statesman's Year-Book" with its familiar red covers has now reached the dignity of a twenty-five annual publication. Unlike the preceding work, it does not contain a formal review of political and international events of 1887, but it comprises the essential facts in the government of every civilized country with statistics of trade, population, national revenues and expenditures, and military and naval intelligence of great value. This publication is always carefully edited and its information is invariably based upon official returns from the capitals of the world. It becomes an indispensable work of reference wherever it is once intelligently used.

The "Index" to the daily files of The Tribune for 1887 brings 305 issues of an American newspaper within reaching distance for convenient reference. Every article, topic and fragment of news is represented in these pages by a reference that can readily be found in the general alphabetical and special topical arrangements.

The news of the year without the advantages of some such labor-saving device as this can only be recalled after arduous searching of the files and straining of the eyes. The "Index" has a place for everything and puts everything in its place. Similar classes of information are grouped for the purpose of convenient reference and a glance reveals the date of issue and the page and column where what is wanted may be found. Here is the authentic record of all the accidents and shipwrecks, the defalcations and crimes, the murders and suicides, failures, fires and floods which were recorded during the twelve months in a metropolitan journal. Here are lists of all the books that have been reviewed, all the plays that have been critiqued, all the sermons that have been reported and all the law cases that have been recorded from day to day. The necrology of the year fills columns after column in alphabetical order. Education, schools, science, art and music have each its appointed place. Agriculture, insurance, commerce, banking, finance and railroads have an orderly arrangement of titles. Legislation and general politics require the same treatment on an enlarged scale. Foreign affairs are arranged under the heads of various countries, sporting news is elaborately indexed. In this way the news of the year is set in order very much as a good library is arranged with shelves for particular classes of books; and at the same time the alphabetical classification is retained for the convenience of those who do not readily accommodate their minds to the method of grouping. The index reveals the contents of 365 daily issues of a metropolitan journal containing the news of the world, and since much that is in one is also to be found in all newspapers of the corresponding date, it also serves in a measure to open the files of the daily press. It ought, therefore, to be in every public library and newspaper office.

The compilation of this "Index" is a most laborious task, involving the classification and arrangement of thousands upon thousands of cards with reference lines. Few daily journals attempt the work of indexing their files. The Tribune being the only one in the United States that publishes a work of this kind. As a preface to the volume a review of the political history of the year is published, and the "Index" is thus made a complete work of reference to the annals of the time.

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